



Winter in Shenandoah

Besides hiking and driving Skyline Drive, there are always things to do in Shenandoah National Park, even in winter. If it's not too cold, you can have a cozy picnic, as some picnic grounds are open year round. See the back for a list of what's open.

If there's snow, Skyline Drive may be closed, but the Park is always open. You can still hike in and snowshoe and crosscountry ski. Be sure to listen and look for plows and move clear.

Cooler temperatures make it easier to see farther and more clearly. Valleys below and mountains beyond are spectacular.

You'll have a better chance of seeing deer, squirrels, and turkeys, as they forage for food. Foxes and bobcats are active through winter. If winter is very mild, you might see signs of black bears who have emerged for a quick snack before returning to slumber.

Listen and look for Shenandoah's winter birdlife. Chickadees, juncos, titmice, nuthatches, and woodpeckers will be searching shrubs and ground plants for seeds and berries, or peeking under bark for hard-to-find insects. Snow in the mountains makes it fun and easy to see who's out and about. Look for tracks of mice, rabbits, and turkeys.

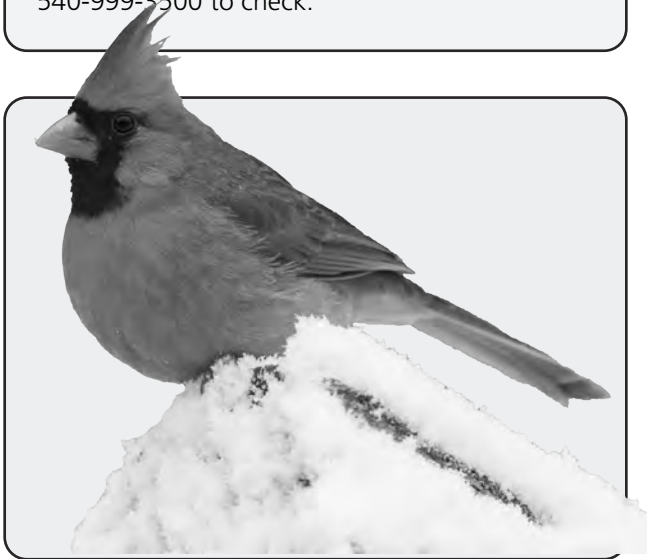
Winter sunsets are the prettiest and most dramatic. The crisp, clear air makes for sunsets that look like soda counter parfaits – sherbet oranges, raspberry pinks, blackberry purples, and blueberry indigos.

A winter visit is just one more way to experience Shenandoah.

Byrd Visitor Center is open weekends!

Stop by Saturdays and Sundays between 9:30 and 4:00. You can chat with a Ranger, visit our interactive exhibits, see a movie, shop in the Park Store and even have a hot drink and a light snack.

We may open holiday Mondays and Fridays during January, February, and March, too. Call 540-999-3500 to check.



Winter Hiking

Winter is a great time to hike. The quiet and solitude are unmatched. The cold, clear days are perfect for an invigorating trip to a summit or to see a waterfall frozen in time.

Be sure to dress in layers and take water, snacks, and a flashlight. Be prepared for the unexpected, and remember that cell phones don't work in most areas in the Park.

It's a good idea to know what time the sun sets. Darkness can sneak up quickly. Be sure someone knows your itinerary and what part of the Park you plan to visit.

Good To Know

The speed limit along Skyline Drive is 35 mph.

Wildlife and pets are a dangerous combination. If you bring your pet to Shenandoah, please keep it on a leash at all times. Pets are prohibited on the following trails:

- Fox Hollow Trail (mile 4.6)
- Stony Man Trail (mile 41.7)
- Limberlost Trail (mile 43)
- Dark Hollow Falls Trail (mile 50.4)
- Story of the Forest Trail (mile 51)
- Bearfence Rock Scramble (mile 56.4)
- Frazier Discovery Trail (mile 79.5)
- Old Rag Ridge Trail
- Old Rag Saddle Trail

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Help Us Combat Illegal Hunting

Hunting is illegal in Shenandoah National Park. If you see someone hunting, spotlighting or transporting wildlife in the Park, call 1-800-732-0911 or 540-999-2227. You do not have to reveal your name, but if you do, it will be kept confidential. Shenandoah National Park will pay a reward to anyone who gives information leading to a conviction.

Visitor Services

December 2014 – March 2015



Dickey Ridge Visitor Center (mile 4.6)
Restroom

Elkwallow Picnic Grounds (mile 24)
Vault toilets
Picnic grounds
Frost-proof faucet

Panorama (mile 31.4)
Restrooms
Frost-proof faucet

Pinnacles Picnic Grounds (mile 35.1)
Vault toilet
Picnic grounds
Frost-proof faucet

Big Meadows (mile 51)
Byrd Visitor Center open 9:30-4:00, Saturdays & Sundays
Films, exhibits, information, Park Store
Restroom open 24 hours, 7 days a week

South River Picnic Grounds (mile 62.5)
Vault toilets
Picnic grounds
Frost-proof faucet

Dundo Picnic Grounds (mile 83.4)
Vault toilets
Picnic grounds
Frost-proof faucet

Phones along Skyline Drive

Mile	Location	Phone Type
0.6	Front Royal Entrance Station	Emergency Phone*
4.6	Dickey Ridge Restrooms	Local/Credit Card/Collect Call Only Phone
24	Elkwallow Wayside	Pay Phone
31.5	Thornton Gap Entrance Station	Emergency phone*
51	Big Meadows Campground	Emergency phone* at Registration Station
65.5	Swift Run Gap Entrance Station	Pay Phone
79.5	Loft Mountain Wayside	Emergency Phone*
104.9	Rockfish Gap Entrance Station	Emergency Phone*

*Emergency phones connect directly to park emergency services.

IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS

- There are no commercial services and there is no fuel from December through late March.
- Expect winter driving conditions. Be alert for ice on the road, especially on shaded curves. Although the speed limit is 35mph, conditions often require lower speeds.
- Be prepared and self-reliant! Weather and road conditions can change rapidly and are quite different from the surrounding lowlands.
- Visitor services and cell phone coverage are very limited.
- Although Skyline Drive is normally open 24 hours a day, severe weather may necessitate closure at any time. Skyline Drive is closed from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. from December 1, 2014 to January 4, 2015.

PARK EMERGENCY NUMBER
(800) 732-0911

